

Children's Defense Fund

Children in South Carolina



November 2008

1,059,917 children live in South Carolina:
 3,795 are American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
 13,249 are Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
 19,121 are two or more races, non-Hispanic
 60,350 are Hispanic
 355,062 are Black, non-Hispanic
 608,340 are White, non-Hispanic

In South Carolina:

A child is born into poverty every 35 minutes.
 A child is abused or neglected every 49 minutes.
 A child dies before his or her first birthday every 16 hours.
 A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 8 days.

South Carolina Ranks:*

38th among states in per pupil expenditures.
 Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah
 47th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.
 Best states are Alaska, Oregon, and Washington; worst state is Mississippi
 48th among states in its infant mortality rate.
 Best state is Utah; worst is the District of Columbia

[*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in South Carolina

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| Number of poor children (and percent poor) | 218,250 (20.9%) |
| Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty) | 103,398 (9.9%) |
| Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | 32,399 |
| Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three | \$205 |

Child Health in South Carolina

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| Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured) | 137,000 (12.2%) |
| Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) | 59,920 |
| CHIP eligibility: 200 percent of federal poverty (\$44,100 for a family of four) | |
| Number of children enrolled in Medicaid | 445,826 |
| Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment | 47.7% |
| Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures | 28.6% |
| Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized | 20.5% |

Child Hunger in South Carolina

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| Number of children who receive food stamps | 257,284 |
| Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps | 71% |
| Number of children in the School Lunch Program | 496,133 |
| Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program | 65,262 |
| Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) | 114,737 |

Early Childhood Development in South Carolina

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| Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force | 65.4% |
| Number of children served by Head Start | 12,248 |
| Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG | 19,700 |
| Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center | \$5,460 |
| Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs | 19.9% |
| Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs | 54.3% |

Education in South Carolina

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| Amount spent per pupil in the public schools | \$7,549 |
| Percent of public school fourth graders reading below grade level | 74% |
| Percent of public school fourth graders below grade level in math | 64% |

Child Welfare in South Carolina

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| Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect | 10,795 |
| Number of children in foster care | 4,920 |
| Number of children adopted from foster care | 425 |
| Number of grandparents raising grandchildren | 50,206 |

Youth at Risk in South Carolina

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| Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school and not high school graduates | 8.5% |
| Averaged freshman high school graduation rate | No data |
| Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed | 21.6% |
| Number of juvenile arrests | 23,565 |
| Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities | 1,320 |
| Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil | 2.2:1 |
| Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 24 homicides; 12 suicides; 5 accidents; and 0 undetermined | 41 |

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available as of November 2008.

For more information on the state of America's children contact:

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